

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent
is:

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1. A product having at least one writing surface (3) which is provided with a position code (5), which codes a plurality of positions on the writing surface (3) to enable electronic recording of information which is being written on the writing surface, by means of a device which detects the position code, characterized in that the product also has at least one activation icon (7a-g) which, when detected by the device, causes the device to initiate a predetermined operation which utilizes the information recorded by the device.

2. A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one activation icon (7a-g) is provided with the position code (5).

3. A product as claimed in claim 2, wherein the position code (5) extends continuously over the writing surface (3) and said at least one activation icon (7a-g) in such manner that the activation icon is detectable by means of the position code (5) as a predetermined position on the product.

4. A product as claimed in claim 2, wherein the position code (5) on the writing surface (3) is discontinuous with the position code on said at least one activation icon (7a-g).

5. A product as claimed in claim 4, wherein the position code (5) with which said at least one activa-

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(continued claim 5)

tion icon (7a-g) is provided constitutes a first subset of an absolute position code, which codes coordinates for points on an imaginary surface, the first subset coding coordinates for at least one point on the imaginary surface, which point is dedicated to initiation of said operation.

6. A product as claimed in claim 4, wherein the position code (5) with which said writing surface (3) is provided constitutes a second subset of an absolute position code coding coordinates for points on an imaginary surface, the second subset coding coordinates within an area on the imaginary surface, said area being dedicated to electronic recording of information.

7. A product as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which product comprises a character recognition area (A) which is provided with the position code (5).

8. A product as claimed in claim 7, wherein the position code with which said character recognition area is provided constitutes a third subset of an absolute position code coding coordinates for points on an imaginary surface, and wherein the third subset codes coordinates within an area on the imaginary surface, said area being dedicated to information the characters of which are to be recognized.

9. A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one activation icon consists of a plurality

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(continued claim 9)

of activation icons (7a-g) for activating various predetermined operations.

10. A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one activation icon (7a-g) and the position code (5) are optically detectable.

11. A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one activation icon (7a-g) and the position code (5) are detectable by means of one and the same sensor.

12. A product as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the predetermined operation is an operation from the following group: dialing a telephone number included in the recorded information, sending a fax containing the recorded information, sending an electronic message containing the recorded information, writing address information included in the recorded information in an electronic address book, entering calendar information included in the recorded information in an electronic calendar, entering a task included in the recorded information in an electronic list, printing the recorded information on a printer, and storing the recorded information at a predetermined location.

13. A product as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the position code comprises a plurality of symbols and wherein each symbol contributes to the coding of more than one position.

14. A product as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the position code (5) comprises a raster and a plurality of symbols, the value of each symbol being determined by the position of a marking (6) in relation to said raster.

15. A product as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, said product being a notepad with a plurality of writing surfaces (3).

16. A product as claimed in claim 15, wherein the position code (5) on the various writing surfaces (3) codes different positions.

17. A product as claimed in any one of claims 1-14, which product is a paper product consisting of at least one sheet (80) comprising said writing surface, at least part of a surface of the sheet being coated with a preferably weakly adhesive layer (81).

18. A product as claimed in claim 17, wherein the writing surface and the adhesive layer are located on opposite sides of the sheet.

19. A product as claimed in claim 17 or 18, wherein the product comprises a plurality of essentially identical sheets.

20. A device for information management, which device is adapted to electronically record information that is being written on a writing surface (33), characterized in that the device is also

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(continued claim 20)

adapted to initiate a predetermined operation, which utilizes the electronically recorded information when it detects a predetermined activation icon (7a-g).

21. A device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the device is adapted to record information electronically by recording a position code (5) which is located on the writing surface (3).

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22. A device as claimed in claim 20 or 21, wherein the device is adapted to detect the activation icon (7a-g) by means of position code (5) with which the activation icon is provided.

23. A device as claimed in claim 20, which device comprises at least one sensor (14) for the electronic recording of the information that is being written on the writing surface (3) and of the activation icon (7a-g).

24. A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the device comprises a single sensor (14) for the recording of the information and the activation icon, which sensor is adapted to provide the recording by recording a position code (5) with which the writing surface and the activation icon are provided.

25. A device as claimed in claim 23 or 24, which device further comprises a signal processor (16) which is adapted to detect, in a signal from said at least one sensor, the activation icon and the recorded information for initiation of the predetermined operation.

26. A device as claimed in claim 24, which device further comprises a signal processor (16) which is adapted to receive the position code recorded by the sensor, to determine which position the recorded position code codes, to determine, on the basis thereof, whether the position code relates to the writing surface, in which case the position is processed as representing information that has been written on the writing surface, or to the activation icon, in which case the predetermined operation corresponding to the position is initiated.

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27. A device as claimed in claim 24 or 25, wherein the signal processor comprises a character recognition function which is adapted to convert the recorded information to character-coded format.

28. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-27, wherein the device comprises a memory for storing the recorded information.

29. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-28, wherein the device is adapted to utilize, in the initiation of the predetermined operation, that part of the information which has been recorded from the writing surface during a predetermined period.

30. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-29, wherein the device is adapted to utilize, in the initiation of the predetermined operation, information that has been recorded in a predetermined area on the writing surface.

31. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-30, wherein the device comprises a transceiver (20) for wireless short-range communication.

32. A device as claimed in claim 25 or 26, wherein said at least one sensor (14) is arranged in a first casing and the signal processor (16) in a second casing.

33. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-31, further comprising a mobile telephone transceiver for transferring the recorded information from the device to an external unit, the predetermined operation being an operation from the following group: dialing a telephone number included in the recorded information, sending a fax containing the recorded information, sending an electronic message with text with the recorded information, and printing the recorded information by means of a printer, and transferring the recorded information to a drawing program.

34. A device as claimed in any one of claims 19-33, wherein the device comprises at least one computer program of the type address book program or calendar program or to-do-list program, the predetermined operation consisting of entering a piece of information contained in the recorded information in a register for use in one of said computer programs.

35. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-34, which device is handheld.

36. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-35, further comprising a pen point (18) for writing the information on the writing surface (3) while being recorded electronically.

37. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-36, further comprising means for providing a feedback signal to the user when the device detects said at least one activation icon.

38. A device as claimed in any one of claims 20-37, further comprising means for indicating when the device detects the position code.

39. A computer program for information management, which is stored on a computer-readable storage medium which comprises instructions for causing the computer to detect an activation icon and initiate, in response to the detection of the activation icon, a predetermined operation which utilizes electronically recorded, hand-written information.

40. A computer program as claimed in claim 39, which computer program is adapted to receive, as an input signal, a plurality of position indications which represent the activation icon and the electronically represented handwritten information and which comprises instructions for analyzing the received position indications, the analysis comprising processing a received position indication as representing part of the handwritten information if the position indication belongs to a first subset

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(continued claim 40)

of positions, and processing a received position indication as a command that a predetermined operation is to be executed, if the position indication belongs to a second subset of positions.

41. A computer program as claimed in claim 38, wherein said analysis comprises detection of a position-coding pattern in images which are received as an input signal to the program and conversion of the position-coding pattern to position indications in the form of coordinates.

42. A computer program as claimed in claim 39, further comprising instructions for the following steps:

- detection (98) of the activation icon on a position-coded sheet,
- detection (99) of a graphical input on said sheet, and further
- reproduction (100) of said graphical input in a program window associated with an application in a computer system, which application is associated with said activation icon.

43. A system for information management, comprising a device which is adapted to record information electronically and a product which is provided with at least one activation icon indicating a predetermined operation, the device being adapted to initiate the predetermined operation for the recorded information in response to the

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(continued claim 43)

detection of said at least one activation icon on the product.

44. A system as claimed in claim 43, further comprising a writing surface, which is provided with a position code coding a plurality of positions on the writing surface, the device being adapted to record the information electronically.

45. A method of recording and processing information, comprising the steps of writing information on a writing surface using a device; recording the written information electronically using the device, characterized by the step of causing the device to carry out a predetermined operation for the recorded information by letting the device detect an activation icon before or after the recording of the written information.

46. A handheld electronic device which is adapted to carry out predetermined operations at the command of a user, characterized by a sensor for detecting at least one activation icon, and a signal processor which is adapted to carry out, in response to the sensor's detection of the activation icon, one of said predetermined operations.

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